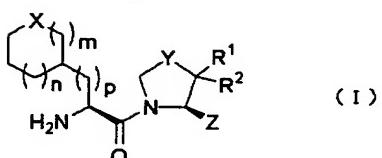


Claims

1. An α -amino acid derivative of the formula (I)



wherein

- 5 R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, alkyl or alkoxy,
 R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group,
alkyl or alkoxy, or
 R^1 and R^2 are joined to form oxo, hydroxyimino, alkoxyimino or
alkylidene,
- 10 X is $CH-R^3$ or $N-R^4$,
 Y is CR^5R^6
 wherein R^5 and R^6 are each a hydrogen atom, a
 halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, alkyl or alkoxy, or
 R^5 and R^6 are optionally joined to form oxo,
15 hydroxyimino, alkoxyimino or alkylidene,
 S , $S=O$ or SO_2 ,
 Z is a hydrogen atom or cyano,
 m and n are each 0, 1 or 2, wherein the sum of m and n is 1, 2
or 3,
20 p is 0, 1, 2 or 3,
 R^3 is $-NR^7R^8$
 wherein R^7 and R^8 are optionally the same or
 different and each independently is a hydrogen atom,
 alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl,
25 heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, or are optionally
 bonded to each other to form heterocycle having at
 least one nitrogen atom, and optionally having other
 further hetero atom(s),
 wherein the heterocycle is optionally
30 substituted or condensed with an aromatic ring
 optionally having substituent(s),
 $-NR^9COR^{10}$
 wherein R^9 and R^{10} are optionally the same or

different and each independently is a hydrogen atom, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl or heterocycle,

5 -NR¹¹CONR¹²R¹³

wherein R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ are optionally the same or different and each independently is a hydrogen atom, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, or R¹² and R¹³ are 10 optionally bonded to each other to form heterocycle having at least one nitrogen atom, and optionally having other further hetero atom(s),

15

wherein the heterocycle is optionally substituted or condensed with an aromatic ring 15 optionally having substituent(s),

-NR¹⁴SO₂R¹⁵

wherein R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ are optionally the same or different and each independently is a hydrogen atom, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl or heterocycle, 20

20

-OR¹⁶ or -OCOR¹⁷

wherein R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are each a hydrogen atom, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl or heterocycle, and

25 R⁴

is a hydrogen atom, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycle, -COR¹⁸

30

wherein R¹⁸ is a hydrogen atom, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl or heterocycle,

-CONR¹⁹R²⁰

35

wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are optionally the same or different and each independently is a hydrogen atom, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, or R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are

optionally bonded to each other to form heterocycle having at least one nitrogen atom, and optionally having other further hetero atom(s),

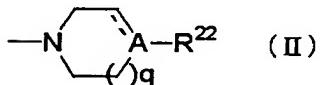
wherein the heterocycle is optionally

5 substituted or condensed with an aromatic ring
 optionally having substituent(s), or

-SO₂R²¹

wherein R²¹ is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,
aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl or
10 heterocycle,

provided that when p is 0, then X is CH-R³, and R³ shows the formula (II)



wherein

15 ---- is a single bond or a double bond,

R²² is aryl or heteroaryl,

Q is 1 or 2, and

A is a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom,

provided that i) when A is a carbon atom, then A is

20 optionally substituted by a hydroxyl group, carboxyl
 or alkoxy carbonyl, and ii) when A is a nitrogen
 atom, then

---- is a single bond,

wherein, of the above-mentioned groups, alkyl, cycloalkyl,

25 cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl
 and heterocycle optionally have substituent(s),
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

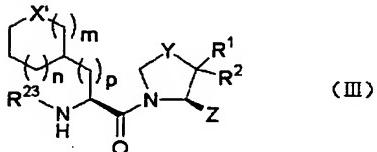
2. The α -amino acid derivative of claim 1, wherein, in the
30 formula (I) of claim 1, m = 2, n = 0 and X = CH-R³, or a
 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The α -amino acid derivative of claim 1, wherein, in the
formula (I) of claim 1, R³ is the formula (II) of claim 1, or a

pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The α -amino acid derivative of claim 3, wherein, in the formula (I) of claim 1, Y = S and R¹ = R² = Z = H, and in the
5 formula (II) of claim 1, q = 1 and A = N, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound of the formula (III)



10 wherein

X' is CH-R³, N-R⁴ or C=O,

R²³ is -COR²⁴

wherein R²⁴ is a hydrogen atom, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl,
15 heteroaryalkyl or heterocycle, or

-COOR²⁵

wherein R²⁵ is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryalkyl or heterocycle, and

20 other symbols are as defined in claim 1.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein, in the formula (III), X'=C=O.

- 25 7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an α -amino acid derivative of any of claims 1 to 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

- 30 8. A DPP-IV inhibitor comprising an α -amino acid derivative of any of claims 1 to 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. An agent for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of a disease relating to a DPP-IV inhibitor, which comprises an α -amino acid derivative of any of claims 1 to 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

5

10. An agent for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of diabetes or obesity, which comprises an α -amino acid derivative of any of claims 1 to 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

10

11. The method of producing a compound of claim 5 wherein X' is represented by $\text{CH}-\text{R}^3$, which comprises use of a compound of the claim 6 as an intermediate.

15 12. The method of producing a compound of any of the claims 1 to 4, which comprises the production method of claim 11.